

**RARITAN VALLEY ARTS ASSOCIATION** established 1939

**January 2005 NEWSLETTER**

**President: Linda Arnold**

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497 Stony Brook Drive  
Bridgewater, NJ 08807

**Happy New Year Greetings!**

**And welcome 2005!**

Lots happening for all you RVAAers! First up is a watercolor demonstration by **Joan McKinney** on Monday, **January 31<sup>st</sup>**, 7:30 pm, at the Somerset County Library. Joan always does a great demo and we are all familiar with her award-winning paintings. Joan is also a member of the NJ Water Color Society, the Garden State Watercolor Society, and the American Artists Professional League. So come; start 2005 right! Judy Hummer will be providing refreshments and we thank Judy for this.

Doug Axmann deserves a huge thank you for arranging our special Holiday Dinner at McCarthy's! **Thank you!** Those who went enjoyed good conversation with friends and a delicious meal, as well as our famous Gift Exchange, the traditional Candy Cane tale told by Eleanor DeMott (complete with candy canes for all), and "A Tale of Three Women" by Diana Patton. Our Holiday Dinner is always a very special night, a time to relax and be with good friends in the midst of our busy holiday season, a time for more talk and laughs than we have time for at our meetings, and all of us who go to the dinner relish these times. Next year—we want to share this with even more of you.

Our wonderful Holiday Show and Sale at the Somerset County Library is now but a memory (however, the way our lives go, it'll be next December soon enough. Ouch!) Chairwoman Diana thanks Mary Ann Creasy for all her help Receiving Day and also thanks all the artists who participated and showsat and made the show so lovely. Thank you's to Linda Arnold, Doug Axmann, and Diana Patton for loaning the art racks. Many people do appreciate viewing our art, even if they don't always buy. Having said that, about \$1,561. was taken in, a gain on last year's \$1,008. My thanks and appreciation to Treasurer Marian Cornwell who, of course, collects all the monies and deals with it and sends out our checks. The library will be all the wealthier for \$156, or 10%, also. Eight artists sold out of the seventeen exhibiting. Although some of the newspaper calendars mentioned us and one short article appeared, none of the publicity photos did. However, last year, our publicity photos did get in, and we sold better this year. Go figure! Artists who participated in this show included Doug Axman, Susan Boyd, Mary Ann Creasy, Eleanor DeMott, Matt Dziedzic, Sherry Engelberg, Amy Erdman, Angela Fehrenback, William Gilbert, Rita Gorky, Debbie Hughes, Judy Hummer, Fran Marell, Jacquie Pasternak Mazur, Diana Patton, Christiane Silla, and Rosemary Zangara.

Your editor is writing this just after the Opening Reception of RVAA's Exhibition at the Bernardsville Public Library. **WOW!** Since pick-up isn't until January 30, noon until 3, you really should see this show, if you haven't already. We look great. 49 paintings!

And a lovely big **THANK YOU to Audrey Wreszin** for putting it all together. This show came with a great food spread, as well, and a good crowd, and even a sale (Rita Gorky's painting—congratulations!). Thank you also to Joan Raushi and Ken Bernhard for hanging all the paintings on Receiving Day. The show is really **IMPRESSIVE!**

What was particularly nice, though, was the fact that we did have a reception (again, thank you, Audrey, for making it all possible, and also thanks to those who brought food). This was an extra chance for RVAAers to get together and see our work and talk and it was a very warm and fuzzy time. RVAA is truly a special organization and your editor just wants to mention this. Twenty-six artists participated: Linda Arnold, Doug Axmann, Ken Bernhard, Kathy Blair, Susan Boyd, Mary Creasy, Sherry Engelberg, Sandra Ganz, Ada Galdi. Rita Gorky, Barbara Fiorentino, Angela Fehrenback, Elsa Herrmann, Judy Hummer, Frances Louise Marell, Eleanor Morehouse, Diana Patton, Joan Raushi, Lib Ryman, Christiane Silla, Rosalie Stern, Mary Ann Vaccaro, Ellen Vreeland, Sonja Weir, Audrey Wreszin, and Rosemary Zangara.

Is anyone interested in an RVAA bus trip to the new and improved Museum of Modern Art? This would be in addition to our great Big Apple Trip in April when we see the Met and the AWS Show at the Salmagundi. Obviously MOMA has had a humungous overhaul and is in spacious new digs—Mary Ann Vaccaro is willing to run a trip if RVAAers are interested. Please call her at 908/704-1685 if you are interested. If you want to omit the expense and trouble of train and regular busses with subways, and have a yen to see the new MOMA, here's your chance!

### **Members in the News**

**SONJA WEIR** has a show at the Amsterdam Whitney Galley, 511 West 25<sup>th</sup> Street, Chelsea, New York City, NY, from January 7—February 1, 2005, entitled "Efflorescent Dreamscapes". (Editor's Note: I wish the Newsletter had come out in time to invite you all to the "Gala Opening Champagne Reception" which was January 13, 6-8, a "Winter Festival Party". Guests are invited to dress in New Year's Silver & Gold)

S'all for now—please do write me your news! Our February demonstrator will be Gene Feller! We keep a happenin' group.